

**Beech Forest, Blueberry Hill, South Monoosnoc Overlook and Granite
Quarry Letterboxes.**

Please be advised**This hike may be dangerous in wet or icy
conditions*******

Go to the end of Exchange Street and at the junction with Constitution Drive make a U-turn and park. Do not block the gate or drive past it, even if it is open or you will risk being towed. Although the sign says entrance is prohibited this trail is open to hikers and you will see a yellow blaze on the gate and on a tree on the right.

Head south up the paved road and pass the green Water Department building on the left. The pavement turns into a dirt path and leads into the woods.

You will come to a yellow arrow blazed on a tree, follow it to the right. At the next “y” in the trail, go to the right. Follow the yellow dots; the trail will lead upward to the left. You will again go left following the yellow blazes and then the trail will make a sharp right. At the right there is a tree on the right with a yellow blaze and a little further up the trail another tree with a yellow blaze. At the second tree take 20 steps and look off the trail on the right for a large rock between 2 beech trees. Walk to the backside of that rock, and look down on the left for the Beech Forest Letterbox, hidden by sticks.

Return to the trail and continue to follow the blazes. You will come to a T-intersection. Go left at this point and continue along the yellow blazed Beech Tree Spur Trail. You will come to another T intersection marked with a blue dot, go left, you are now on the Monoosnoc Ridge Trail approaching South Monoosnoc Hill. Once on the top of the hill, where it flattens out, you will find a few large yellow blazes as well as blue blazes along the trail. When you reach a cavitared tree stump on the right of the trail, about 4-4 1/2' high, stop. Turn and take 4 steps back. Then turn left and walk about 8 steps to a pile of dead wood. The Blueberry Hill Letterbox lies in the center left of the pile. Go back to the trail and continue on. In a few minutes you will reach a yellow arrow pointing right. Take this right and follow the trail. You will pass by a rock saying that the summit trail is dedicated to Robert Axel Anderson, who cherished and preserved this land. After a short walk you will come to the South Monoosnoc Overlook. From this vantage point you

can see Haynes Reservoir, Mt. Wachusett and Leominster State Forest. After you have enjoyed the view continue on, the trail will lead down over some large rocks. After walking over the rocks begin to count the yellow dots on both the right and left side of the trail. After 5 dots walk a few more steps down the trail and look left for a triple trunked oak tree with a tumble of rocks in front of it. The largest rock has a flat stone on top of it. Go to the back of that rock and look underneath on the left for the South Monoosnoc Overlook Letterbox.

Continue down the trail for one more yellow dot, you will come to another T intersection. Go left and continue along the trail following the blue dots.

You will begin climbing again. Eventually the trail will even out, continue along following the blue blazes. You will come to another intersection marked with a blue arrow pointing left. At this point go right and follow the yellow dots. You are now on the quarry trail and will begin a steep descent. At the bottom of this steep hill you will come to a tree marked with arrows pointing right and left, turn left and continue following the yellow dots. As you walk along look for evidence that this was once an active granite quarry. The trail will climb slightly and at the top you will see a tree with a yellow dot on the left. A short way further on the left side of the trail is a multi-trunked tree with a yellow dot, take a few steps past that tree and look for a triangular shaped rock pointing to a birch tree in the quarry. The Quarry Letterbox is hidden under that rock a few steps in, covered by loose stones. Please rehide carefully, as it could be visible from the trail.

Continue along the trail following the yellow dots, you will come to an intersection marked by a yellow dot and an arrow pointing left. Go right and this will bring you back to where your car is parked at the end of Exchange Street.